

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00  
SP-02 L-03 /052 W  
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O 072132Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
SECSTATE WASHDC 2745

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 12982

USICA FOR EU

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OEXC, UR  
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE USA GUIDES EXPULSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 11736-C, (B) MOSCOW 12768, (C) USICA  
10321-C

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN ABSENCE EXHIBIT DIRECTOR AND  
OTHER PERSONNEL WHO ATTENDED MAY 19 MEETING WITH SOVIET  
EXHIBIT ADMINISTRATION CITED REFTEL A, EMBASSY ABLE  
PROVIDE DETAILS ONLY OF SOVIET ALLEGATIONS VOICED ON  
MAY 18 WHICH LED TO JUNE 4 MFA DEMAND FOR EXPULSION  
AGRICULTURE USA EXHIBIT GUIDES LUPAN AND MASCHIOCCHI.  
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MAY 18 MEETING MASCHIOCCHI WAS CHARGED WITH  
HAVING CLAIMED THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF PRESS OR  
SPEECH IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT KENNEDY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM  
THE SOVIET UNION. HE ALSO ALLEGEDLY RESPONDED TO ONE  
VISITOR'S QUESTION WITH A GESTURE TO THE FOREHEAD,  
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INDICATING HIS OPINION THAT THE SOVIET WAS MENTALLY  
DERANGED.

3. LUPAN, THE UKRAINIAN SPEAKING GUIDE, SUPPOSEDLY  
CHARGED THAT FEW PEOPLE IN THE REPUBLIC SPEAK  
UKRAINIAN AND THAT THIS IS A RESULT OF AN ONGOING SOVIET  
POLICY OF RUSSIFICATION IN THE NATIONAL REPUBLICS. HE

IS FURTHER SAID TO HAVE CLAIMED THAT IN THE GEORGIAN REPUBLIC THERE WERE FREQUENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST RUSSIFICATION. ALLEGEDLY SLANDEROUS COMMENTS WERE MADE AGAINST SOVIET LEADERS, THAT SOVIET ELECTIONS ARE FRAUDULENT AND THAT THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

4. AFTER BEING ADVISED BY THE EXHIBIT DIRECTOR OF THE ALLEGATIONS BOTH GUIDES RESPONDED THAT, FOR THE MOST PART, THE COMMENTS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. MASCHIOCCHI RECALLED MENTIONING THAT THE "SOVIET COLLUSION" THEORY CONCERNING THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, BUT ALWAYS AS ONLY ONE OF MANY POPULAR THEORIES SUCH AS THE "SOUTHERN CONSPIRACY" THEORY AND OTHERS. HE RECALLED COMPLAINING THAT WESTERN NEWSPAPERS SEEM UNAVAILABLE IN KIEV, BUT CLAIMS TO HAVE NEVER MADE THE BLANKET STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR PRESS. PERHAPS IN A MOMENT OF FRUSTRATING DEBATE HE DID POINT TO HIS HEAD IN A GESTURE TO A VISITOR, HE ADMITTED, BUT HE DID SO NOT REALIZING THAT SOVIETS TAKE THIS MUCH MORE PERSONALLY THAN DO AMERICANS. IN SHORT, HE DID NOT RECALL MAKING DIRECT DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, BUT ADMITS HAVING HAD HEATED EXCHANGES WITH VISITORS FROM WHICH CERTAIN MISLEADING STATEMENTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED. LUPAN ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT, BUT ADMITTED TO HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY "TOUGH" ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE STAND AS THE EXHIBIT PROGRESSED THROUGH ITS 28-DAY TOUR. HE DID REFER TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN TBILISI AGAINST THE REPUBLIC DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND HAD COMPLAINED THAT FEW PEOPLE IN KIEV SPEAK UKRAINIAN. HE MENTIONED HAVING BEEN REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF TO MILITIAMEN BEFORE BEING ADMITTED TO EASTER CHURCH SERVICES IN KIEV, BUT DENIED MAKING DIRECT CHARGES CONCERNING ANY FORM OF SOVIET INTERNAL POLICY. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON THE MANY THEORIES CONCERNING THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, LUPAN COUNTERED THAT THE "STALIN THEORY" IS ONE OF SEVERAL CONCERNING THE DEATH OF KIROV.

5. BOTH MASCHIOCCHI AND LUPAN SAY THEY EXPERIENCED INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE EXHIBIT STAND WHICH HAD TAKEN THE FORM OF POINTED AND LEADING QUESTIONS AND FREQUENT H-CKLING FROM INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS SMALL ORGANIZED GROUPS.

6. AS NOTED REFTTEL A ON MAY 19 BOTH GUIDES WERE FIRMLY CAUTIONED NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO DISCUSSIONS FROM WHICH ANY POSSIBLE FURTHER ACCUSATIONS COULD BE CONCOCTED.

DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 19 THROUGH THE CLOSE OF THE EXHIBIT IN KIEV ON MAY 23, BOTH INDIVIDUALS PERFORMED NORMAL GUIDE FUNCTIONS. THE EXHIBIT WAS CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FOR SIGNS OF INCREASED TENSION OR CONFLICT, WITH NONE OBSERVED. THE EXHIBIT CLOSED UNEVENTFULLY.

7. COMMENT: SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY SAW LUPAN INTERACTION WITH UKRAINIAN PUBLIC AS POTENTIALLY OR ACTUALLY DANGEROUS AND, ALTHOUGH AWARE THAT HE WAS TO LEAVE USSR AFTER KIEV SHOWING, CAPITALIZED ON HIS POSSIBLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 12982

(UKRAINIAN) NATIONALISTIC-TINTED OUTSPOKENNESS TO UNDERCUT PURPOSE OF EXHIBIT AND TIE HIS "ANTI-SOVIET" ROLE ON EXHIBIT TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE VOICE OF AMERICA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT COMPLAINTS AGAINST UKRAINIAN SPEAKING GUIDE WERE VOICED BY VERY SAME KIEV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL WHO SERVED WITH "PHOTOGRAPHY USA" IN 1976. THIS INCIDENT, HOWEVER, WAS RESOLVED ON THE LOCAL LEVEL. IN MASCHIOCCI'S CASE, WE FEEL HIS EAGERNESS TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN POTENTIALLY-CONTROVERSIAL DISCUSSIONS COUPLED WITH HIS INABILITY TO DISCERN INSTANCES IN WHICH HE WAS CLEARLY BEING SET UP BY ORGANIZED GROUPS OF AGITPROP TYPES MADE HIM AN OPTIMUM TARGET FOR SOVIET MANIPULATION.

8. UNPRECEDENTEDLY SEVERE SOVIET REACTION IN THIS INSTANCE INCLUDING JUNE 6 IZVESTIA ARTICLE TO BE REPORTED SEPTEL NO DOUBT IS TRACEABLE TO SEVERAL CAUSES. "AGRICULTURE-USA" AND ITS PREDECESSOR, "PHOTOGRAPHY-USA", BOTH ATTRACTED RECORD-BREAKING CROWDS

IN KIEV, AND SOVIETS, PARTICULARLY IN UKRAINIAN REPUBLIC,  
MAY FEEL GREATER NEED THAN NORMALLY TO ATTEMPT TO  
COUNTERACT EXHIBIT'S EFFECTIVENESS. ADDITIONALLY,  
SOVIETS MAY HAVE WANTED TO GENERATE STORIES IN WHICH  
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THEY PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS INJURED PARTY IN WAKE OF  
RECENT PUBLICITY DETRIMENTAL TO SOVIET IMAGE. IT  
WOULD, WE FEEL, BE STRETCH OF IMAGINATION TO SEE THIS  
HOWEVER AS SOME SORT OF SOVIET QUID-PRO-QUO FOR  
ARRESTS IN U.S. FINALLY, WE HAVE GENERAL OBSERVATION  
THAT MATTERS WHICH AS RECENTLY AS PAST TWO EXHIBITS  
HAD BEEN SETTLED INFORMALLY MAY NOW BE CAUGHT UP IN  
GENERAL CLIMATE OF MALAISE IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.  
INSTEAD OF DOWNPLAYING POTENTIAL IRRITATIONS, SOVIETS  
MAY NOW BE SEEKING DELIBERATELY TO BLOW THEM OUT OF  
PROPORTION FOR BLATANTLY PROPAGANDISTIC  
PURPOSES. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT, TO DATE AT LEAST,  
SOVIETS STOPPED SHORT OF MAKING THIS A MAJOR INCIDENT  
IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIETS DELAYED  
DISCUSSION WITH EXHIBIT DIRECTOR IN KIEV UNTIL AFTER  
DEPARTURE OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BERGLAND FROM SOVIET  
UNION. MOREOVER, IN DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE WITH  
POL COUNSELOR JUNE 7 (SEPTTEL), MFA COUNSELOR ISAKOV  
REITERATED SOVIET INTEREST IN MAINTAINING NORMAL  
CULTURAL EXCHANGES, INCLUDING EXHIBITS. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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